

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

Call on MARGIT.

2. Public Comments.

PAT: This is the time for public comments on any topic not on the agenda.

3. Minutes of June 27, 1996 Meeting.

Needs MOTION and SECOND; VOICE VOTE.

4. Chairman's Report.

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, August 22, 1996, and will be held here in the Jean Harvie Community Center.

Status of Budget:

Upcoming Delta Events:

July 28, 1996: Pear Fair in Courtland--Commissioner McGowan's band will be playing.

5. Attorney General's Report.

Call on Rick Frank

6. Executive Director's Report.

Call on MARGIT:

NEW EMPLOYEE: Marnie Kagan, a student in biology and psychology at UC Davis, will be working in the Commission office this summer and fall.

GIS:

RECREATION: Met with Dave Cox on July 18, he states the first 10,000 letters will be mailed this week, with the next 10,000 next week.

CHANNEL ISLANDS: I have been representing the Commission at Channel Islands Workshop, the latest was held on July 24. The participants are continuing to refine a list of funding sources, a review of physical techniques for shoreline

protection; a draft MOU for entities to sign; and a work plan.

DELTA FUND: The end of the year total for the 10% penalty fund for the entire fiscal year is: \$2577.15.

OF INTEREST:

- * Jim Nickles of Stockton Record wrote extensive report on San Joaquin River; three sections.(pass around).
- * Endangered Winter Run Chinook Salmon increased to 1,361 fish in 1995.
- * Storage in 155 California reservoirs topped 34.8 million acres feet, the most since 1977. During that drought year, storage was 12.5 million acre feet.
- * State of the Estuary Conference seeking papers, applications due July 31; the conference is October 10-12.

IN PACKET:

1. Information about SB 900, which can be agendized for consideration until the November election.
2. Letters re SB 900 and in support of 2193, as directed at the last meeting.
3. Memo about Coast weeks and SHORELINE Cleanup Day, which is September 21, 1996.

7. Pending Projects Memo.

PAT: Call on Margit.

MARGIT: I wanted to let Commissioners know that a federal project is under construction that I did not list on the memo last year. Last October, Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge completed environmental review on the second segment of the refuge. Just south of the CalTrans mitigation bank, the Service is currently working to create 250 acres of new seasonal wetlands on the 457 acre Lewis/Vyronis property. This is between I-5 and the old railroad right of way and lies north and south of the Laguna Boulevard exit. I will add this information to last year's data on projects.

PAT: Are there any comments or questions about the pending projects memo?

8. Update on Status of Proposed Regulation and Proposed Amendment to the "Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta" (Plan) Addressing Siting of Sewage Treatment Plants and Areas for Disposal of Sewage Effluent and Sewage Sludge.

Call on MARGIT.

Staff Report: Staff has polled the Commissioners and

The P-3 vote is targeted for August.

State: An update on the lawsuit by Central Delta and South Delta water agencies against the State Water Board to nullify the permits for sludge disposal issued under the General Order: the State Board asked the attorneys who brought the suit to propose a settlement. A settlement has been submitted which would nullify permits in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds that are within 60 feet of groundwater or 600 feet of a waterway. They are waiting for a response.

Local:

Solano County: Staff is working on the draft ordinance.

San Joaquin: On Tuesday, July 16, 1996 the BOS will consider a moratorium and preparation of a Countywide ordinance regulating sludge application in the County.

Yolo: Staff is working on the proposed ordinance; no draft has been released.

9. Briefing on Conservation Easements on Agricultural Land.

Call on Margit.

Much of the focus of the Commission's enabling legislation focuses on agriculture and its role in the Delta. The Act states "The Delta is an agricultural region of great value to the state and nation and the retention and continued cultivation and production of fertile peatlands and prime soils are of significant value." The Act talks about the benefits of the agricultural land for migratory waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway as well as other Wildlife, and states "the continued dedication and retention of that Delta land in agricultural land contributes to the preservation and enhancement of open space and habitat values."

To this end, the Act states "The Legislature further finds and declares that the voluntary acquisition of wildlife and agricultural conservation easements in the Delta promotes and enhances the traditional Delta values of agriculture, habitat, and recreation" and under "Powers and Duties of the Commission" states "The Commission may promote, facilitate, and administer the acquisition of voluntary private and public wildlife and agricultural conservation easements in the Delta".

In the Commission's adopted Plan, a recommendation was included which states "A program by non-profit groups or other appropriate entities should be developed to promote acquisition of Wildlife and agricultural conservation

easements on private lands with the goal of protecting agriculture and wildlife habitat in the Delta."

To promote this aspect of the Commission's program, I have set up a couple of meetings of the existing non-profits to discuss their current programs and I attended a meeting of Northern California land trusts, some of which are involved in conservation easements.

In preparation of the background reports, you reviewed some brief information about easements, I have reproduced two pages from the Agriculture Background Report. The general idea is that the value of property is derived from a number of "rights" and that through one of several means, a landowner can voluntarily give up some of the "rights" associated with property to protect the long term use for agriculture. In most instances the change is permanent.

There are a number of on-going and new programs which involve agricultural easements. I am pleased to introduce a number of people who have agreed to explain their programs, interests and concerns to you.

RUSS MATTHEWS, San Joaquin Farm Federation.

CASS ELLIOTT, Yolo Land Conservation Trust

KEN TROTT, Department of Conservation

ERIC VINK, American Farmland Trust

STEVE MELLO, representing North Delta Conservancy.

PAT: Call on each one individually for presentation.
Allow Commission questions.
Ask for PUBLIC COMMENTS.

No ACTION scheduled, but the Commission should be thinking about any role it can or wants to play in this area in the future, if extension of sunset date is approved.

10. Public Hearing and Possible Commission Adoption of Position on Pending Legislation: AB 360 (Hannigan)

Call on MARGIT.

This bill has changed considerably from when it was submitted. It still includes the provision to include "project" levees in the levees subvention program. In addition, the bill now extends the SB 34 levee subventions program until the year 2030 and is a companion bill to SB 900. That means that AB 360 will not take effect until or unless SB 900 is approved by the voters in November. The

revised bill includes several elements which the Commission has supported in its adopted Plan. This includes: emergency plan preparation in case of threats to levees; continued subsidence research; develop delta levees habitat management guidelines; and develop criteria to include vegetation management guidelines.

The bill has been approved by the Assembly, was heard by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources and is still under negotiation by the interested parties.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Bring the matter to the Commission for discussion.
(NOTE: Motion should be to direct Chairman to send letter of support to bill author).

Need MOTION; SECOND; and VOICE VOTE.

11. Commissioner Comments.

PAT: This is an opportunity for Commissioners to make announcements or comments.

12. Adjourn.